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MAHON HAS COOL COURT TECHNIQUE

'Businesslike' Tracing of State's Case Due

John J. ("Those are the facts") Mahon will tell the jury today exactly what he thinks.

He will give a "businesslike speech," he said, telling how he expects to prove Marilyn Sheppard was murdered by her husband, Dr. Samuel H. Sheppard, and then he will present his witnesses in "a businesslike way."

If the chief trial prosecutor is able to prove his case and overcome Dr. Sam's assertion of innocence he will have achieved another victory by "setting the record straight," as he describes it.

.900-Plus Batting Record

Mahon will be assisted in this first-degree murder case by Prosecutor Saul S. Danaceau, who originally did not believe in capital punishment, and Prosecutor Thomas J. Parrino, who has a batting record of .900-plus on convictions.

Mahon's own record is about 100 murder-charge convictions in 22 years as a state's attorney. Old-timers at the Criminal Court Building maintain that he had the same poker face and spoke in the same monotone in every one of those trials.

He has scored most of his successes by a bulldog-like approach to the trial issues. He scoffs at oratory and is stubbornly unaware of whatever impression he may be making on a jury.

But on cross-examination he often catches the witness in a pair of legal jaws and dares him to break loose.

The 63-year-old widower, who has three children and eight grandchildren, was elected Tuesday to a seat on the Common Pleas bench.

Danaceau, 58, who sits in the Sheppard trial at the No. 2 chair on the prosecutor's side, is the legal expert of the state's team.

Takes Back Seat

While he ranks immediately beneath Cullitan and over Mahon, he has taken a back seat in the trial because much of his experience has been in the civil branch.

In his own criminal cases Danaceau helped win convictions against former Police Lieut. Ernest L. Molnar (bribery) and Willie Hoge and Arthur (Little Brother) Drake (extortion).

Father of two and grandfather of five, Danaceau has been in the prosecutor's office for 18 years. It was in his first-hand observation of murder trials that Danaceau gradually came to change his view about the death penalty.

But it is outside the courtroom that Danaceau scored one of his greatest achievements. He was the chief author in 1931 of the city charter of Cleveland.

Parrino, a 37-year-old bachelor, joined Cullitan's staff in 1949 after serving with an army intelligence outfit. In the early stages of the Sheppard investigation he did much of the police spadework.

Parrino has won recent at-

tention by his convictions of Ralph (Bull) DiBiase, head of a large gang of safecrackers, and Emmett (the Prophet) Cobb, a notorious panderer.

In their last clash with Corrigan, Mahon and Parrino lost their case. Joseph Gogan, Lakewood industrialist, was freed by a jury then on a charge that he murdered his wife.